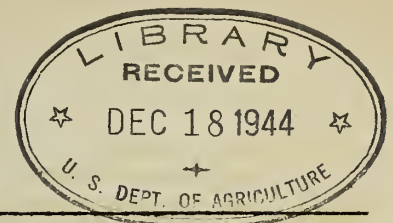


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Administration



No. 17

AMA "WAR BOARD" LETTER

Wash., D.C., May 23, 1942

EGGS: Another egg production drive is in making. Producers have done excellent job meeting production goals announced last fall calling for approximately 15 percent more eggs and 10 percent more poultry. Indications are these goals will be realized. Now, more eggs and poultry are needed to meet expanded domestic consumption, Lend-Lease requirements and military demands. WARNING: Increased production should be held to those areas where poultry industry is well established and where there are adequate facilities to handle and market poultry products at all seasons. This cannot be over-emphasized. Present rate of chick production indicates plenty of layers for latter part this year and early 1943. Task is to see that birds are well raised and adequately fed. With sufficient number of birds on farms or in prospect, job is to see that they are efficiently handled to produce the eggs needed. NOTE: Through AMA purchase operations USDA was committed to support market at 85 percent of parity. In face of greatest production in history during current flush season, prices were maintained at 90 to 100 percent of parity.

DRIED EGGS: Rumors are current that AMA dried egg purchases have stopped. This is NOT so. Fact is there has been some curtailment in L-L shipments pending packaging of product in the 5 oz. moisture and air-proof containers mentioned in WB Letter No. 15. Dried egg purchases are being made and will continue to be made. (See above.) This is not first rumor concerning dried eggs. One recent report was British had cancelled orders because eggs were received in bad condition. British Food Mission official Joseph Hopkins: "There is not the slightest bit of truth to that report. We are pushing all the dried eggs we can get over to England as fast as we can. Quality for dried eggs received in Lend-Lease shipments has NOT given us any cause for complaint at all."

CONTAINERS: Through arrangements made by OAWR, between 5 and 7½ million yards of osnaburg (cotton) bagging should be available on the West Coast the early part of June for manufacture of grain bags. Possibility of getting burlap for bags still indeterminate. However, outlook is optimistic for taking care of bagging needs in other producing areas as they develop later. Crates, hampers and boxes: Recent order (Amendment 1 to P 79) of WPB giving manufacturers better priority rating on nails and wire should give some limited immediate relief in production of these containers. This may be only temporary as nail and wire situation may get tighter.

DRIED WHOLE MILK PURCHASE PROGRAM: has been announced. Substantial quantities expected to be taken on offer and acceptance basis for L-L shipment and other needs. Offers should be made in carload lots, and 50 lb. vacuum packed cans are desired for export shipment. Currently United Nations are asking for more concentrated milks that can be packed in the least shipping space. Other than meeting this requirement, dried whole milk, especially spray processed, is comparable to fresh milk when reconstituted with water and chilled. Off and on during past year AMA has purchased about 4,000,000 lbs. dried whole milk, mainly for Red Cross and L-L.

SEED: In move to prevent shortage of strategic vegetable seed, AMA has contracted with major producers for production of 1,536,000 pounds of carrot and

1,175,000 pounds of onion seed in 1943. Heavy demands, domestic and Lend-Lease, made action necessary. It takes two years to produce both carrot and onion seed; for this reason contracts were made now to encourage adequate production next year. Contracts awarded 19 producers operating in California, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Michigan, and other States.

FARM BUILDING PRIORITIES: Procedure for handling applications for allocation of farm building equipment has been worked out by OAWR. Time lapse: about 4 days between county and State WB's, little over 4 days to review at State WB and forward to OAWR here and 2 days for clearance at WPB. Of 172 applications received so far, 113 been cleared thru WPB; 2 rejected and 59 still in OAWR, most came in same day. Further reduction in time to be asked. Applications can be wired in case of emergency.

GRAIN STORAGE: On basis normal crops OAWR estimates storage will be needed for total 3,715,000,000 bushels of major grains, except corn. Maximum commercial storage available 1,300,000,000 bu. Farm storage facilities are estimated at 2,000,000,000 bu. Would leave 415,000,000 bu. short. Planned to take care of shortage as follows: WPB asked for materials to repair 50,000,000 bu. steel corn bins to be moved to grain storage deficit areas. 40,000,000 bu. capacity of such bins can be used in present location with minimum of repairs. Commodity Credit Corp. hopes provide 100,000,000 bu. pre-fabricated wood bins; farmers expected to build 50,000,000 bu. wood bin capacity on farms. 50,000,000 bu. wood bins expected to be built by commercial firms as annexes to present facilities. 10,000,000 bu. capacity expected from use of vacant garages, stores, etc. Leaves 100,000,000 bu. to be provided for. Farmers expected to use space in houses and outbuildings. This program only proposed on basis normal yields. Bumper crops would make situation tighter. Covers diversion of steel bin storage from corn since heavy feeding is causing large disappearance of that grain now.

VICTORY FOOD SPECIAL PROGRAM: Coming right along. Onions will be featured in program on national basis during week June 8-15. Heavy supply situation indicated in North Texas, Georgia and California. Asparagus and spinach will be featured during week June 1-8, but only in heavy supply area north of Virginia and east of Ohio. "Victory Food Special" symbol has been worked out and will be released soon. Description: Basket filled with farm produce with Victory "V" in foreground. Will be distributed to food merchants for use in advertising and merchandising "specials". Lettuce (WB Letter No. 16) was successfully featured May 11-25.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: For your information only. Apples, pears and potatoes will be removed from food stamp list in June. Despite untrue rumors, the Food Stamp Plan will be continued within limits of funds available. Food Stamp Program provides flexible market support machinery for relief from localized, temporary surpluses. There are still 10 to 11 million unemployed and unemployables. Along with direct distribution, it may be needed in transition period from war to peace-time economy.

DRY SKIM MILK: On May 18 AMA price for spray type dry skim milk was boosted $3\frac{1}{4}$ cent to $13\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb. Roller type still 12 cents per lb. Dry skim milk purchases since March 1941 through May 13, totalled about 138,000,000 pounds, 40,000,000 lbs. spray type and 98,000,000 lbs. roller.